



## **Sister M. Angelica Doris, SC**

Entered eternal life on March 18, 2022

How does one define a woman like Angelica? Her name – variously Catherine, Aunt Cat, Angelica, Angel. Her role – daughter, sister, aunt, cousin, Sister of Charity, trustee, administrator, colleague, fellow, counselor, etc., etc., etc..

The Oxford Dictionary defines leadership as one showing someone the way to a destination by preceding or accompanying them. It also defines a leading light as a person who is prominent or influential in a particular field or organization.

So we can, I think, define Angelica as a leader, in fact, as a leading light. By her life, in her various roles, she led many of us to better knowledge and to better health in her ministries, as a teacher and health-care provider. Although her formal teaching ministry in schools was limited to two

places: Saint Francis, Ridgefield Park and Saint Mary's, Elizabeth, Angelica was a lifelong teacher, especially at Saint Joseph's Hospital in Paterson, where she served as Business Manager and later as Assistant Administrator and where, I think, a piece of her heart remains.

I believe a good leader comes from having a good follower. Angelica followed two wonderful women. Sister Anne Jean Regan, Administrator of Saint Joseph's Hospital, taught her to lead with compassionate care, especially for the poor and underserved. Her service at St. Joseph's prepared her for her role as Administrator of All Souls Hospital, Morristown from 1967 to 1970. Sister Hildegarde Marie, to whom she was the Assistant General Superior, taught her to lead by discernment of the will of God for our Congregation and how to move into the future with courage and conviction based on thorough research and prayerful considerations.

Angel's abilities came early in life. As one of eight children of Edward and Julia Doris, I suspect Cat was a leader at childhood games and classes at Sacred Heart School, Vailsburg, and Saint Vincent Academy in Newark. Like many of the other women of the 1940's, when she graduated from St. Vincent's she worked for a time at the Pru – The Prudential Insurance Company in Newark and tested her leadership skills as a Girl Scout leader. One of her Troop was Sister Kathleen O'Brien – the start of a lifelong friendship.

During her 76 years as a Sister of Charity, Angelica's biography reads like a directory of our Congregation's healthcare ministries. In addition to her role as Assistant Administrator and Administrator, she served on all our hospital boards as trustee, as member of the corporations, and teacher always because of her education and experience. She graduated from the Yale School of Public Health, interned at St. Vincent Hospital in New York (which, at the time, was the largest Catholic hospital in the United States) and she was a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Angelica's career in hospital administration was followed with terms in our Congregation's government. She served two terms as General Councilor, the second of which as Assistant General Superior. She spent several years at the Catholic Health Association in Saint Louis as Director of Programs and Projects related to the mission of Catholic healthcare. Returning to Convent Station, Angelica was appointed Director of Corporate Affairs for us Sisters of Charity, a post she held until 2003.

All the preceding speaks of the professional side of Angelica. There is the whole other side – the person. Angel, as many of us called her, was a warm and caring woman, deeply devoted to the Sisters of Charity, totally engaged in our life as a Congregation with all the changes we've experienced since Vatican II. Present and actively participating at every Assembly, she helped to shape us – and continued to do so beyond her 100<sup>th</sup>

birthday – as we earnestly seek to keep the firm of Charity ablaze in our world. She was also an active member of the local community here at Convent, as Eucharistic Minister, lector, group leader and cake baker. She was a committed walker – probably the secret to her longevity.

These last several weeks have been hard for Angelica and for all the many caregivers here in our Motherhouse, as they have cared for her with love and tenderness. It has been a tribute to her, to their love, respect, and gratitude for her life of God-centered love and service. She will be missed. We are very grateful to all the caregivers and companions who cared for her health needs or who kept vigil with her on her final journey.

All who know Angelica well, know of her great devotion to her family – her brothers and sisters, her brothers-and sisters-in-law, and her legion of nieces and nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. She was always there for you at the house in Brant Beach or around New Jersey or even in Florida. For those who couldn't visit her, she was faithful in visiting them – keeping the family ties secure. Every party was better because of her presence and obvious enjoyment.

Now it is Angelica's turn to be led as we pray:

May the angels lead you into paradise.

May the martyrs come to welcome you

And lead you into the Holy City, the new and eternal Jerusalem

And where Lazarus is poor no longer.

May you find eternal rest.

Amen.

Sister Mary Canavan, SC